

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A data converter comprising:

a data conversion unit;  
a timer unit which counts time; and  
a lock system which locks a data

10 conversion function of said data conversion unit in  
a disabled state based on the time counted by said  
timer unit.

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2. The data converter as claimed in claim  
1, further comprising a lock release system which  
releases a lock on the data conversion function set  
20 by said lock system so that the data conversion  
function is set in an enabled state.

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3. The data converter as claimed in claim  
2, wherein said lock release system comprises:

a data input unit through which  
identification data is input;

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a recording unit which records reference  
data for identification used to release the lock on  
the data conversion function; and

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a control unit which collates the  
identification data input from said data input unit  
with the reference data for identification, and  
releases the lock on the data conversion function  
when the identification data is identical to the

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reference data for identification.

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4. The data converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data input unit is formed of entry keys by which numbers, letters, and signs are entered.

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5. The data converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data input unit is a plane coordinate input unit which is touched to allow input of data using coordinates of touched positions.

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6. The data converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data input unit is an input/display unit comprising:

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a plane coordinate input panel which is transparent and is touched to allow input of data using coordinates of touched positions; and

a display which is provided on a rear side of said plane coordinate input panel to display numbers, letters, and signs.

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7. The data converter as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data input unit is a fingerprint input unit to which an image of a fingerprint of a

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computer connected to the data converter with the  
reference data for identification, and releases the  
lock on the data conversion function when the  
identification data is identical to the reference  
5 data for identification

10 11. The data converter as claimed in  
claim 10, wherein the computer includes an input  
unit through which the reference data for  
identification and the identification data are input.

15 12. The data converter as claimed in  
claim 1, further comprising a time setting unit  
20 which sets a waiting time before the data conversion  
function is disabled.

25 13. The data converter as claimed in  
claim 2, further comprising a time setting unit  
which sets a waiting time before the data conversion  
function is disabled.

30 14. The data converter as claimed in  
35 claim 1, further comprising a display unit which  
displays whether said lock system is in operation.

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10           a data converter, said data converter  
comprising:

a timer unit which counts time; and

15 conversion function of said data conversion unit in  
a disabled state based on the time counted by said  
timer unit.

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17. The computer as claimed in claim 16, wherein said data converter further comprises a lock release system which releases a lock on the data conversion function set by said lock system so that the data conversion function is set in an enabled state.

25 conversion function set by said lock system so that  
the data conversion function is set in an enabled  
state.